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INC

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PRIORITY

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STATE

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TOR: 240838Z MAY 85

PP RUEAIIB
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
STU5692
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P 240833Z MAY 85
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3194
INFO RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 1043
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 5622
BT

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 03046

TERREP

E.O. 12356: NA
TAGS: PTER, PREL, LE, US
SUBJECT: SINN AL-FIL CAR BOMBING

REF: BEIRUT 3016

1. ON MAY 23, AS EAST BEIRUT CHRISTIANS HELD A MASS FUNERAL FOR MANY OF THOSE KILLED IN THE MAY 22 CAR BOMBING IN SINN AL-FIL (REFTEL), THE LEBANESE FORCES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE IN WHICH IT BLAMED THE "WASHINGTON POST" FOR HAVING PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE CONNECTING THE CIA AND THE LAF G-2 TO THE MARCH 8 BIR AL-ABB BOMBING. THE LF STATED THAT THE ARTICLE HAD "STARTED A INFORMATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CHRISTIANS" AND "HAD STIRRED UP CRIMINAL INSTINCTS, WHICH RESULTED IN THE SINN AL-FIL BOMBING."

2. ON THE SINN AL-FIL BOMBING INVESTIGATION, THE PRESS QUOTES OFFICIAL SECURITY SOURCES AS STATING THE THE "VEHICLE WAS BOOBY-TRAPPED IN THE NORTH BIQA'" AND WAS "DRIVEN INTO EAST BEIRUT THE DAY BEFORE THE BOMBING VIA THE NORTH METN ROAD." THE PRESS DID NOT, HOWEVER, INDICATE HOW THE INVESTIGATORS ARRIVED AT THIS CONCLUSION. BARTHOLOMEW
END OF MESSAGE

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